

Remarks/Arguments

Pending in the application as amended in response to the Office Action identified as Paper No. 9 and dated 30 December 2002 are claims 1-10.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner has quoted 35 USC § 102(b). In paragraph 2, the aforementioned has been applied in the rejecting claims 1-9 whereby such claims are said to be anticipated by John Deere Catalog PC 2725, "Mower Deck Baffles".

As referenced in the "First Amendment", claim 1, the sole independent claim, was amended to recite that, in regard to the front edge of the cutting implement, the "... vertically extending section ..." thereof is "... *formed as a portion of the front edge of one of the chambers and depend[s] therefrom such that it extends to a point that is lower than a second portion of the front edge ...*", (emphasis added). As stated previously, support for this construction may be found in paragraph 21 of the specification.

The above cited documents have been cited against the claims, as stated above. Yet, unlike the construction which has been and continues to be claimed, the structure as found in the documents mentioned does not achieve that construction.

The observations drawn in the text of paragraph 2 of the Office Action are an interpretation of the structure that appears; however, such an interpretation thereof appears to be misguided as applied to the claims which have been presented. In essence, these observations do not appear to address the one-piece construction which carries with it the functions and advantages as they have been described throughout the specification. Thus, it is kindly requested that the rejection(s) be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claim 9 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. It is further indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

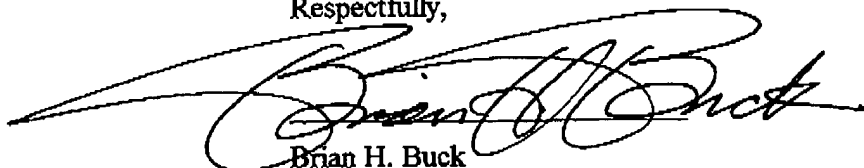
Applicants have re-presented claim 9 as independent claim 10. Further, Applicants take this opportunity to express an appreciation for the indication of allowability.

C nclusion

In view of the above, it is believed that the combinations as provided in the claims, as they are now submitted, are in condition for allowance; accordingly, such allowance is respectfully requested.

Any fees due as a result of filing of this Paper may be charged against Deposit Account 04-0525.

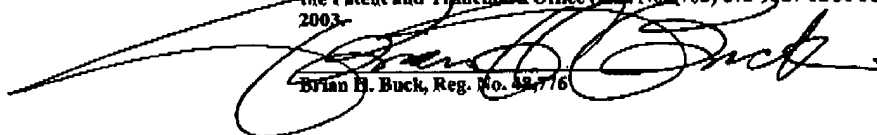
Respectfully,



Brian H. Buck

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Box No. (703) 872-9927 on 30 June 2003.



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